

State Interagency Coordinating Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Highline School District
15675 Ambaum Blvd., SW
Burien, WA

Attendance:

Members

Sheila Ammons, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Jane Campbell, King County DD County Human Services
Molly Chavez, Washington Migrant Council
Commander Victoria Crescenzi, MD, Military
Melinda Dyer, OSPI/Education of Homeless Children and Youth
Sarah Fader, Parent
Steven Finch, Service Provider, School District
Kathy Fortner, Service Provider, Neurodevelopmental Center
Alan Garrels, Department of Services for the Blind
Christine Johnson, Service Provider, Head Start
Amy Kocher, Parent
Dennis Mathews, Service Provider, Education
Robin McIlvaine, DSHS/Children's Mental Health
Maria Nardella, Department of Health
Marie Preftes Arenz, Parent
Sharon Reddick, DSHS/Health and Recovery Services Administration (Medicaid)
Bonnie Sandahl, SICC Chair
Janet Spybrook, Personnel Preparation
Tiffany Wheeler-Thompson, Parent
Dawn Williams, Head Start Agency
Dani Wykes, Parent

Members Unable to Attend

Charles Cowan, MD, Service Provider Physician
René Denman, Parent
Representative Mary Lou Dickerson, Legislature
Marijean Holland, Office of Insurance Commissioner
Diane Patterson, Service Provider, Public Health
Linda Rolfe, DDD Director, DSHS/Lead Agency
T Simmons, DSHS/Children's Administration (Foster Care)
Kristine Slentz, Personnel Preparation, Higher Education

Others Attending

Rachael Allison, Spokane Regional Health District
Sandy Carlson, SKIP
Kerianne Christie, Washington School for the Deaf
Jane Dobrovolny, Northwest Center
Kim Hamren, Listen & Talk
Nancy Hatfield, WA Sensory Disabilities Services
Debbie Jackson, Washington PAVE, Parent Participation Assistant
Cassie Johnston, Washington PAVE, Parent Participation Coordinator
Lisa LaRue, Department of Early Learning, Child Care
Charna Martin, Wonderland Development Center
Jackie McPhee, Children's Village
Linda Middleton, Clallam/Jefferson ICC
Lisa Nippert, Progress Center
Susan Ray, Department of Health, Family Involvement Coordinator
Heidi Schaefer, Progress Center
Karen Sporn, DSHS, Foster Care
Linda Thompson, SKIP
Candy Watkins, A Step Ahead
Jan Wrathall, King County Division of Developmental Disabilities

Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program Staff Who Participated

Karen Walker, Acting Program Director
Kathy Blodgett, Program Consultant
Wayne Vrona, Program Consultant
Linda Jennings, Program Support

BUSINESS MEETING

I. Introductions/Announcements:

Chair Bonnie Sandahl called the meeting to order. She asked the Council to make introductions. Introductions were also made of the visitors attending. Six new Council members were present and introduced themselves:

Sheila Ammons, representing OSPI, Special Education
Sarah Fader, Parent representative
Amy Kocher, Parent representative
Robin McIlvaine, representing DSHS, Children's Mental Health
Marie Preftes Arenz, Parent representative
Janet Spybrook, Ed.D, representing Personnel Preparation

Motion: A motion was made to approve the January 22, 2009 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: A motion was made to accept the April 22, 2009 agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

II. Department of Health (DOH) Update

Maria Nardella shared a DOH Update with the Council.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- DOH State Budget – still no clarity on where reductions will be taken, just know they will be severe.
- Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Staffing – able to fill the frozen Budget and Contracts Coordinator with Lissa Hunter; program will continue to have one vacant position.
- Grants – In Year 2 of the Epilepsy Grant and Year 1 of Autism. Both are three year federal grants. Both have web pages off the CSHCN Program website at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/cshcnhome2.htm>.
- Catalyst Center – “Breaking the Link between Special Health Care Needs and Financial Hardship”. An effective national health care reform plan must include a comprehensive understanding of the unique financial challenges faced by families raising children with special health care needs. The latest publication from the Catalyst Center, *Breaking the Link between Special Health Care Needs and Financial Hardship*, describes the three distinct "links" between children with special health care needs and family financial hardship. It provides policymakers and advocates with examples of proven strategies and policy solutions that can reduce the impact of medical debt and underinsurance. (http://hdwg.org/files/resources/Catalyst_Center_Breaking_The_Link.pdf). Visit the Catalyst Center website for additional materials and information to improve health care insurance and financing for children and youth with special health care needs (<http://www.catalystctr.org>.)

III. Mental Health Update

Robin McIlvaine gave the Council an update on the DSHS/Division of Mental Health.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Waiting for budget to see further reductions
- Regional Support Networks are taking rate cuts
- Children's evidence based practice is losing funding- implementations will likely survive, but at reduced capacity
- Some relocation of personnel – Maryann Lindeblad is now the Interim Director for Mental Health
- Mental Health Transformation Grant (MHTG) is starting its fifth and final year. The MHTG is sharing their Indian Liaison and Parent Advocate, Jeanette Barnes, as parent advocate in the MHD.
- The Division is working hard to turn in an application for the SAMSA Grant by 5/15/09.

III. Mental Health Update

Continued

- Mental Health Division will sponsor a “Family Connectors Conference” in August. This conference is for parents of children with mental health and developmental disabilities in the public system, or new to the system. Thirty parents attended the conference last year.

IV. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

Karen Walker discussed ARRA Part C Individuals with Disabilities Education Act funds and the guidance that was received recently. One of the purposes of the guidance provided by the Federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is to provide information on the appropriate use of these funds. The funds are to be used consistent with current IDEA, Part C statutory and regulatory requirements. Some of the possible uses of these one-time IDEA ARRA funds were identified. Some facts about ARRA funds include:

- Funds are made available to ITEIP based upon its current application and assurances
- Intended to increase capacity to improve results for children and families
- Intended to enhance states current system – have base already in place
- Emphasis on short term, one time opportunities to make systemic changes
- ITEIP will survey stakeholders for the purpose of prioritizing “allowable” activities

V. Committee Reports

Data Committee, Kathy Fortner

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Data Committee met on April 10, 2009.
- Four issues developed from meeting:
 - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds relative to Data
 - Parent/Family Survey
 - Follow-up on Natural Environment Retreat Assignment
 - GoTo Meeting

Family Leadership and Involvement Committee (FLIC), Tiffany Wheeler Thompson for Rene' Denman

HIGHLIGHTS:

- FLIC members met April 21st with Susan Atkins, Washington State Parent to Parent coordinator.
- The FLIC members have completed their adaptation of the PACER Birth to Three Parent Training CD and have distributed 50 copies statewide.
- The Committee will now be focusing on transitions from the family perspective. The Committee will be developing a Transition booklet and PowerPoint training.
- The FLIC members are recommending that the October SICC meeting include Conversations with Families and be held in the Bellingham area.

V. Committee Reports

Continued

Funding Committee, Steve Finch

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Funding Committee met on April 14, 2009.
- The Committee reviewed ITEIP budget.
- Committee members discussed the ARRA State Fiscal stabilization funds. Recommend conducting a survey of lead agencies to collect ideas and needs.
- The Funding Committee will be focusing on the Family Cost Participation Policy and the Parent Financial Responsibility.

Personnel and Training Committee, Karen Walker for Kris Slentz

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Committee met on March 2, 2009 and recruitment strategies for additional committee members were discussed.
- The Committee revisited a previous survey on minimum requirements for early intervention professionals and agreed upon revisions and updates to categories of qualified personnel.
- The Committee previously approved recommendations for training priorities and reminded the Council:
 - Personnel and Training Website initiated at the U of W
 - Quarterly provider meetings
 - Annual higher education/personnel development meetings
 - Annual web-based needs survey
- The Committee proposed using any available technical assistance funding to develop practice guides and basic information for districts/providers, on-line training modules to increase accessibility and dissemination, and other materials for infrastructure – oversight and technical assistance.
- ITEIP Data Management System updates/improvements were discussed.
- The Committee discussed the requirements for technical assistance with compliance indicators. Developing Practice Guides was discussed as a starting point for building a base of common practices through a contract with ESD 123.

Public Policy Committee, Cassie Johnston for Cecile Lindquist

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Committee and the WEECARE Coalition have been tracking and gathering information on school district indirect costs. Two ideas have been developed:
 - Educate special education directors regarding the OSPI recommended rates and urge they utilize same rate
 - Continue to discuss with parents and urge them to educate their school boards on the OSPI recommended rates and what the district rate might be for contracting services
- Both the House and the Senate versions of the Infant Toddler Equity Act (ITEA) Bills died in legislative session. The WEECARE Coalition will be back next year to request DSHS funding for the ITEIP.
- After much discussion, the Committee puts forth the following recommendations/strategies for the use of the ARRA Funds:

V. Committee Reports

Continued

- Funding for training in early intervention best practices to ensure quality services
- Development of Washington State rules and regulations for IDEA, Part C
- Updating the ITEIP Data Management System
- Provide direct service dollars to stabilize programs that are critically underfunded (i.e. counties with no DDD fund for infants and toddlers)
- Find a consultant to make recommendations to the state legislature on the best utilization of Medicaid dollars for a programmatic and effective approach of matching state and federal dollars
- Fund a cost study of early intervention

Services Committee, Dani Wykes/Diane Patterson

HIGHLIGHTS:

- No report

VI. Families Are Important PowerPoint Training

Cassie Johnston, on behalf of the Family Leadership and Involvement Committee, shared with the Council how this training PowerPoint had been developed and would be shared statewide. She then presented the training for the Council.

VII. Legislative Updates

Bonnie asked Council members to give legislative updates for their agency.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sharon Reddick, DSHS/Health and Recovery Services
 - HRSA had four legislation requests, three of which are passed
 - Fifteen bills of support are being monitored by the division
 - There are five other bills of interest that the division is watching
- Dr. Victoria Crescenzi, Military
 - Provided information regarding HR1600 in the US Congress. The bill is in committee, if passed it will allow payment for autism under TriCare insurance.
- Maria Nardella, Department of Health
 - ESHB 2128 – Health care coverage for children
 - SB 5117 – Intensive In-home Behavior Supports
- Sheila Ammons, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - McKinny-Vento: Will send \$1.98M to Washington State to serve homeless youth and children

VII. Legislative Updates

Continued

- Robin McIlvaine, DSHS/Children's Mental Health
 - 3SHB1373 – Children's Mental Health
- Dawn Williams, Head Start
 - \$2.3B nationwide, for expansion
- Lisa LaRue, Department of Early Learning
 - Department has new Director, Dr. Betty Hyde
 - SHB 1329 – Providing collective bargaining for child care center directors and workers
 - HB 1943 – Requiring recommendation for preparation and professional development for early learning and school age program workforce
 - HB 2261 – Concerning the states education system
 - ESB 6048 – Concerning the states education system

IX. Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) - Update

- ITEIP will apply for Federal Fiscal Year 09 funding on May 1, 2009. The public comment period is March 23 – April 22, 2009. The application is available on the ITEIP website.
- Annual determinations for each Local Lead Agency (LLA) were made in April, 2009
- Sandy Morris retired January 31, 2009. Karen Walker was named Acting Director and Richard Sanders was named Acting Assistant Director.
- Child and Family Outcomes Survey (COSF) data has been gathered, compiled, and analyzed. Progress data information on more than 230 children (with both an entry and exit COSF) was included in the 2009 annual performance report. ITEIP expects to obtain baseline COSF entry/exit data on all children in early intervention services by July 2010.
- IDEA Reauthorization – All proposed federal regulations have been put on hold until further notice, per the directive of the new federal administration.
- Basic FRC spring training is scheduled for April 22-23, 2009. Year Two training
- will be held on September 10, 2009 via the ESD sites over the K20 video system.
- State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Reports (SPP/APR) Compliance and Performance Indicator Data continue to show improvements. (? I'm sure there's a better way to say this.)

X. SICC Strategic Plan

Bonnie asked the Council how they would like to do the strategic planning. Karen Walker proposed asking Greg Abell, from the Sound Options Group, to facilitate a morning session for the Council. With Greg's assistance, we will determine the direction and priorities of the Council for the next several years.

Motion: A motion was made to approve to have the July 22, 2009 SICC meeting be divided into half-day sessions. The morning half-day would be facilitated by Greg Abell, and the afternoon would be the SICC meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Council took time to create their “wish list” for ARRA stimulus funds. However, Karen cautioned that at this time, it is still unknown what the allowable options for spending the funds will be.

Meeting adjourned.

Next SICC Meeting Date:

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. with a working lunch

Highline School District Office

Board Room

15675 Ambaum Blvd., SW, Burien, WA

206-433-0111